

NSC BRIEFING

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7 December 1955

OPINION OF FRENCH ELECTIONS

I. An American observer in Paris long interested in French politics expects:

1. Substantial victory for gov't coalition, short of assuring real stability;
2. Mendes-France will continue denounce "trickery" of Jan elections and non-representative nature of new assembly;
3. This will further discredit parliamentary institutions and threaten governmental stability;
4. Battle to "save the republic" from the right increases long-term threat of popular front including Communists.

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